A TRUE NARRATIVE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT Guild-Hall, London,

The Fourth of this Inſtant *February*, in their Unanimous Election of their Four Members to ſerve in Parliament.

With their Thanks to them, and to the Petitioning-Lords.

ON *Tueſday* laſt, being the 1ſt of *February*, Inſtant, 10ſ., was held a Court of *Huſtings* at the *Guild-Hall* of this City; At which the Writ for the Election of the Four Citizens to ſerve in the next Parliament for the ſame was proclaim'd, and a *Common-Hall* appointed on this *Friday*, the 4th Inſtant; and eſpecial care was taken by that Court, that the Citizens of this City ſhould have due and timely notice thereof. And on this day a Common Hall Aſſembled accordingly, at which the ſeveral Companies of this City (conſiſting of ſeveral Thouſand perſons) appear'd in their Gowns after their uſual manner. And after the Aldermen and Sheriffs were come down, and had taken their Places on the *Huſtings* (ſilence being proclaim'd), one of the Secondaries read the Writ for the Election of Four Citizens to Serve in the enſuing Parliament for this City, and then made a Speech, as followeth.

Gentlemen,

OUR late Meetings here, upon occaſions of this nature, are ſo freſh in our memories, that I need ſpend no time in re-minding you of the method of your Proceedings there; Eſpecially ſince your Unanimity at thoſe Elections was ſuch, as to render that ſtile and familiar to you, which to others oftentimes proves very irkeſome and tedious.

However the duty of my place obliges me to acquaint you, That the King by this Writ I have now read you, by the advice and aſſent of his Council hath been pleaſed to Command the Sheriffs of London *(by you to elect), and under your Seals, as well as theirs, to return Four of the more diſcreet and ſufficient Citizens among you to meet Himſelf, and the Peers and Prelates of this Realm at his City of* Oxford, *on the* 21ſt *day of* March *next enſuing, there to Debate and Treat of ſuch weighty matters as ſhall be then thought fit to be handled, touching the ſafety of His Majeſties moſt ſacred Perſon, and the State and Security of the Kingdom and Church of* England.

The Grand priviledges and advantages the Subjects of this Kingdom do, and of right ought to enjoy by a Parliamentary-way of Government I doubt not every conſiderate Engliſh-man is ſenſible of, when hereby the King (with reverence I ſpeak it) is pleas'd ſo to tye up his own hands (as it were) as not to exact or command one Penny of money out of any of your pockets without your own conſents (that is Gentlemen) by ſuch your Repreſentatives; for to their Prudence and Conduct you commit the care of your ſelves and families, your Religion, Lives, Liberties, and all that's near and dear to you.

Since then the truſt you are to repoſe in them is ſo great as your ALL, You ſtand in need of no advice certainly (eſpecially from one of my years) to make choice of ſuch as ſhall be fitly and fully qualifi'd for ſo great an undertaking.

Now, Gentlemen to recount to you the care, pains, charges, conſtancy, integrity and aſſiduity of thoſe Worthy Gentlemen, who have ſerved you in this high Station in the Two laſt Parliaments, is as needleſs (ſince you know it ſo well) as it would exceed the bounds of my duty either to recommend them to your Choice again, or to point out or hint unto you any other able Citizens, either on this Honourable Bench, or among your ſelves. I ſhall therefore be ſilent in both, and leave you to your free, indifferent, and uncontroulable Election, and deſire you'l pleaſe to proceed to your Nomination.

Then *Henry Cornish*, Eſq one of the Sheriffs, made a ſhort Speech, the ſubſtance whereof is, That he had lately attended the Lord Mayor to know his Lordſhips pleaſure, whether he would be put in nomination

nomination for one of the four Citizens to *serve in the ensuing Parliament*; which his Lordship refused, and made it his request, That the Hall would waive naming him; and that the late members being worthy good English-men, and true Protestants, recommended them to their respect and nomination.

Then the Court proceeded to their Election (the *Hall* crying out they would have no other in nomination but the four late members) but some persons desiring that others might be in nomination, that so the Election might appear more free, accordingly several Aldermen were put up with them; but the Election fell unanimously upon the four late Members. Whereupon the Sheriffs immediately proceeded to the declaration of their opinion, That the Election fell upon the four late Members, viz. Sir *Robert Clayton*, Knight, Alderman, *Thomas Pilkington* Esq; Alderman, Sir *Thomas Player*, Knight, Chamberlain, and *William Love*, Esq;.

The Election being thus over, the Hall presented a Paper to the Sheriffs, purporting an Address to the four Members; which being read and approv'd of by general assent, was as followeth.

To the Honoured Sir *Robert Clayton*, Knight, *Thomas Pilkington*, Alderman, Sir *Thomas Player* Knight, and *William Love*, Esq; late (and now chosen) Members of Parliament for this Honourable City of *London*.

WE the Citizens of this City in Common-Hall assembled, having experienced the great and manifold services of you our Representatives in the two last Parliaments, by your most faithful and unwearied endeavours to search into, and discover the depth of the horrid and hellish Popish Plots, To preserve his Majesties Royal Person, the Protestant Religion, and the well-established Government of this Realm; To secure the meeting and sitting of frequent Parliaments; To assert our undoubted Rights of Petitioning; And to punish such who would have betrayed those Rights; To promote the happy and long-wished for Union amongst all his Majesties Protestant subjects; To repeal the 35th *of* Elizabeth, *and the* Corporation-Act; *And especially for what progress has been made towards the Exclusion of all* Popish Successors, *and particularly of* JAMES DUKE of YORK, *whom the Commons of* England *(in the Two last Parliaments have declar'd (and we are greatly sensible is) the principal cause of all the ruin and misery impending these Kingdoms in general, and this* City *in particular. For all which, and other your constant and faithful management of our affairs in Parliament, We offer and return to you our most hearty Thanks, being confidently assur'd that you will not consent to the granting any Money-supply until you have effectually secur'd us against* POPERY *and* ARBITRARY POWER; *Resolving (by Divine assistance) in pursuance of the same ends to stand by you with our Lives and Fortunes.*

Then the *Citizens* Hall offered another Paper, directed to the Sheriffs, purporting their Thanks to the several Noble Peers for their late Petition and Advice to His Majesty, which was as followeth.

To the Worshipful *Slingsby Bethel* and *Henry Cornish*, Esquires, Sheriffs of the City of *London* and *Middlesex*.

WE the Citizens of the said City in Common-Hall Assembled, having read, and diligently perus'd the late Petition and Advice of several Noble Peers of this Realm to His Majesty, whose Counsels we humbly conceive are (in this unhappy juncture) highly seasonable, and greatly tending to the safety of these Kingdoms. Therefore we do make it our most hearty request, that you (in the Name of this Common-Hall) will return to the Right Honourable the Earl of Essex, *and (by him) to the rest of those Noble Peers, the grateful acknowledgments of this Assembly.*

Which being Read, and approved of by a general Acclamation, the Sheriffs promised to give their Lordships the Thanks of the Common-Hall, in pursuance of their Request.

After which, it being intimated to Sir *Robert Clayton*, that it was expected he should say something to the *Common-Hall*: He arose out of his place, and Sir *Thomas Player*, with Alderman *Pilkington* being present, and spoke as followeth, viz.

Gentlemen,

I Am certain every one of us on whom you have this day cast and continued so great a Trust, are very sensible of the honour you have done us: I can likewise assure you for every one of us, without any hazard, That as we have used our utmost endeavours according to the best of our reasons and judgment, for the attaining of all those good ends desired by you; so by the blessing of God we will continue the same. And I make no doubt, if every one of us who are resolved to continue Protestants, will make it our business to be reconciled to one another, our good God, who hath hitherto so miraculously appeared for us, will give his blessing to the work of this day, and the loyal and hearty endeavours of that great Assembly you are sending us unto; and in his good time find out a way for an happy deliverance, and the dissipating all our fears. Which God of his mercy grant.

Which being ended, and receiving a general applause, the Court was dismissed.

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